

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

ALTON RYAN

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No. 24-cr-03-SM

FILED - USDC - NH  
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**PLEA AGREEMENT**

Pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(C) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the United States of America by its attorney, Jane E. Young, United States Attorney for the District of New Hampshire, and the defendant, Alton Ryan, and the defendant's attorney, David Rothstein, Esquire, enter into the following Plea Agreement:

1. The Plea and the Offense.

The defendant agrees to plead guilty to Count 2 of the Indictment that charges him with Conspiracy to Distribute Controlled Substances, specifically, fentanyl and methamphetamine, Schedule II controlled substances, in violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), 841(b)(1)(C), and 846.

In exchange for the defendant's guilty plea, the United States agrees to the sentencing stipulations identified in Section 6 of this agreement.

2. The Statute and Elements of the Offense.

Title 21, United States Code, Section 846 provides, "Any person who attempts or conspires to commit any offense defined in this subchapter shall be subject to the same penalties as those prescribed for the offense, the commission of which was the object of the attempt or conspiracy."

The defendant understands that conspiracy has the following elements, each of which the

United States would be required to prove beyond a reasonable doubt at trial:

First, that the agreement specified in the Indictment, and not some other agreement or agreements, existed between at least two people to distribute or possess with intent to distribute controlled substances; and

Second, that the defendant willfully joined the agreement.

Pattern Criminal Jury Instructions for the District Courts of the First Circuit, District of Maine Internet Site Edition, 2024 Revisions, Instruction 4.18.371(1), <https://www.med.uscourts.gov/sites/med/files/crpjiLinks.pdf>.

Title 21, United States Code Section 841(a)(1) provides, in pertinent part:

(a) Unlawful acts

Except as authorized by this subchapter, it shall be unlawful for any person knowingly or intentionally—

(1) to manufacture, distribute, or dispense, or possess with intent to manufacture, distribute, or dispense, a controlled substance.

The defendant understands that the offense of distribution of a controlled substance has the following elements:

First, the defendant transferred a controlled substance to another person;

Second, the defendant knew that the substance was a controlled substance; and

Third, the defendant acted intentionally, that is, that it was his conscious object to transfer the controlled substance to another person.

Pattern Criminal Jury Instructions for the District Courts of the First Circuit, District of Maine Internet Site Edition, 2024 Revisions, Instruction 4.21.841(a)(1)B, <https://www.med.uscourts.gov/sites/med/files/crpjiLinks.pdf>.

### 3. Offense Conduct.

The defendant stipulates and agrees that if this case proceeded to trial, the government would introduce evidence of the following facts, which would prove the elements of the offense beyond a reasonable doubt:

In the fall of 2022, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”) New Hampshire Major Offender Task Force (“NH MOTF”) and the New Hampshire State Police (“NHSP”) began investigating the defendant and his co-conspirators for distribution of controlled substances in New Hampshire. The investigation involved surveillance of and controlled purchases from an autobody shop in Concord, New Hampshire (“the autobody shop”), where the defendant and his co-conspirators agreed and worked together to distribute methamphetamine and fentanyl.

On December 13, 2022, at the direction of law enforcement, a confidential source (“CS”) arranged the purchase of heroin/fentanyl from the defendant at the autobody shop. Law enforcement provided the CS with official advanced funds and audio/video recording equipment and searched the CS prior to and after the transaction for weapons, contraband, and unexplained currency with negative results.<sup>1</sup> The CS entered the autobody shop and met with co-conspirator Serene Hull, before meeting with the defendant. The CS exchanged official advanced funds (“OAF”) for 49.88 grams of fentanyl, as confirmed by the Drug Enforcement Administration (“DEA”) laboratory.

On December 20, 2022, at the direction of law enforcement, the CS arranged the purchase of methamphetamine and fentanyl from the defendant. The CS met the defendant in a parking lot in Concord, New Hampshire and purchased 62.2 grams of fentanyl and 70.2 grams of methamphetamine, as confirmed by the DEA laboratory.

On January 5, 2023, at the direction of law enforcement, the CS arranged the purchase of fentanyl from the defendant. Law enforcement surveillance observed the defendant leave the autobody shop to meet the CS at a multi-family unit in Concord, New Hampshire. The defendant

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<sup>1</sup> Investigators followed this procedure prior to and after each controlled purchase.

brought the CS into the unit, where the CS purchased 43.1 grams of fentanyl, as confirmed by the DEA laboratory, for the OAF.

On March 2, 2023, the New Hampton, New Hampshire Police Department attempted to stop the defendant's car for a motor vehicle infraction. The defendant led the police on a high-speed chase, <sup>HAC</sup> ~~with items being thrown from the motor vehicle's windows along the way.~~ The defendant's car began smoking and ultimately pulled over. The defendant was arrested and officers obtained a search warrant, locating approximately 246 grams of cocaine, as confirmed by the New Hampshire State Police Forensic Laboratory, and a Walther PPS pistol, a battle ax, a machete, and a knife.

Following the motor vehicle stop, the defendant waived his *Miranda* rights and spoke to investigators. The defendant stated that he threw a bag of cocaine out the window during the pursuit. He said that he knew he could not possess firearms, but inside the car there was a gun and drugs. Specifically, the defendant stated that there was a pistol under the seat and cocaine in a duffle bag. The defendant admitted to purchasing methamphetamine through the mail and distributing it.

The facts would be established through witness testimony, photographs, audio/video recordings, and laboratory results.

4. Penalties, Special Assessment and Restitution.

The defendant understands that the penalties for the offense are:

- A. A maximum prison term of 20 years (21 U.S.C. § 841(b)(1)(C));
- B. A maximum fine of \$1,000,000 (21 U.S.C. § 841(b)(1)(C));
- C. A term of supervised release of at least 3 years and as much as life (21 U.S.C. § 841(b)(1)(C)). The defendant understands that the defendant's

failure to comply with any of the conditions of supervised release may result in revocation of supervised release, requiring the defendant to serve in prison all or part of the term of supervised release, with no credit for time already spent on supervised release; and

- D. A mandatory special assessment of \$100, \$100 for each count of conviction, at or before the time of sentencing (18 U.S.C. § 3013(a)(2)(A)).

5. Sentencing and Application of the Sentencing Guidelines.

The defendant understands that the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984 applies in this case and that the Court is required to consider the United States Sentencing Guidelines as advisory guidelines. Except for the Rule 11(c)(1)(C) sentencing stipulations provided for in Section 6 of this Agreement, the defendant understands that he has no right to withdraw from this Plea Agreement if the applicable advisory guideline range or his sentence is other than he anticipated.

The defendant also understands that the United States and the United States Probation Office shall:

- A. Advise the Court of any additional, relevant facts that are presently known or may subsequently come to their attention;
- B. Respond to questions from the Court;
- C. Correct any inaccuracies in the pre-sentence report;
- D. Respond to any statements made by him or his counsel to a probation officer or to the Court.

The defendant understands that the United States and the Probation Office may address the Court with respect to an appropriate sentence to be imposed in this case.

The defendant acknowledges that any estimate of the probable sentence or the probable sentencing range under the advisory Sentencing Guidelines that he may have received from any source is only a prediction and not a promise as to the actual sentencing range under the advisory

Sentencing Guidelines that the Court will adopt.

6. Sentencing Stipulations and Agreements.

Pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. 11(c)(1)(C), the United States and the defendant stipulate and agree that a sentencing range of 84 to 151 months' imprisonment is an appropriate disposition of this case.

The parties intend the above stipulations to be "binding" under Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(1)(C). By using the word binding the parties mean that if the Court will not accept the plea agreement under Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(3)(A), the plea agreement is null and void and the defendant will be allowed the opportunity to withdraw his guilty plea.

The parties are free to make recommendations with respect to the terms of imprisonment, fines, conditions of probation or supervised release, and any other penalties, requirements, and conditions of sentencing as each party may deem lawful and appropriate, unless such recommendations are inconsistent with the terms of this Plea Agreement.

7. Acceptance of Responsibility.

The United States agrees that it will not oppose an appropriate reduction in the defendant's adjusted offense level, under the advisory Sentencing Guidelines, based upon the defendant's apparent prompt recognition and affirmative acceptance of personal responsibility for the offense. The United States, however, may oppose any adjustment for acceptance of responsibility if the defendant:

- A. Fails to admit a complete factual basis for the plea at the time he is sentenced or at any other time;
- B. Challenges the United States' offer of proof at any time after the plea is entered;



- C. Denies involvement in the offense;
- D. Gives conflicting statements about that involvement or is untruthful with the Court, the United States or the Probation Office;
- E. Fails to give complete and accurate information about his financial status to the Probation Office;
- F. Obstructs or attempts to obstruct justice, prior to sentencing;
- G. Has engaged in conduct prior to signing this Plea Agreement which reasonably could be viewed as obstruction or an attempt to obstruct justice, and has failed to fully disclose such conduct to the United States prior to signing this Plea Agreement;
- H. Fails to appear in court as required;
- I. After signing this Plea Agreement, engages in additional criminal conduct;  
or
- J. Attempts to withdraw his guilty plea.

The defendant understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his guilty plea if, for any of the reasons listed above, the United States does not recommend that he receive a reduction in his sentence for acceptance of responsibility.

The defendant also understands and agrees that the Court is not required to reduce the offense level if it finds that he has not accepted responsibility.

If the defendant's offense level is sixteen or greater, and he has assisted the United States in the investigation or prosecution of his own misconduct by timely notifying the United States of his intention to enter a plea of guilty, thereby permitting the United States to avoid preparing for trial and permitting the United States and the Court to allocate their resources efficiently, the United States will move, at or before sentencing, to decrease the defendant's base offense level by an additional one level pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(b).

8. Waiver of Trial Rights and Consequences of Plea.

The defendant understands that he has the right to be represented by an attorney at every stage of the proceeding and, if necessary, one will be appointed to represent him. The defendant also understands that he has the right:

- A. To plead not guilty or to maintain that plea if it has already been made;
- B. To be tried by a jury and, at that trial, to the assistance of counsel;
- C. To confront and cross-examine witnesses;
- D. Not to be compelled to provide testimony that may incriminate him; and
- E. To compulsory process for the attendance of witnesses to testify in his defense.

The defendant understands and agrees that by pleading guilty he waives and gives up the foregoing rights and that upon the Court's acceptance of his guilty plea, he will not be entitled to a trial.

The defendant understands that if he pleads guilty, the Court may ask him questions about the offense, and if he answers those questions falsely under oath, on the record, and in the presence of counsel, his answers will be used against him in a prosecution for perjury or making false statements.

9. Acknowledgment of Guilt; Voluntariness of Plea.

The defendant understands and acknowledges that he:

- A. Is entering into this Plea Agreement and is pleading guilty freely and voluntarily because he is guilty;
- B. Is entering into this Plea Agreement without reliance upon any promise or benefit of any kind except as set forth in this Plea Agreement or revealed to the Court;
- C. Is entering into this Plea Agreement without threats, force, intimidation, or coercion;



- D. Understands the nature of the offense to which he is pleading guilty, including the penalties provided by law; and
- E. Is completely satisfied with the representation and advice received from his undersigned attorney.

10. Scope of Agreement.

The defendant acknowledges and understands that this Plea Agreement binds only the undersigned parties and cannot bind any other non-party federal, state or local authority. The defendant also acknowledges that no representations have been made to him about any civil or administrative consequences that may result from his guilty plea. The defendant further acknowledges that this Plea Agreement has been reached without regard to any civil tax matters that may be pending or which may arise involving the defendant.

11. Collateral Consequences.

The defendant understands that as a consequence of his guilty plea he will be adjudicated guilty and may thereby be deprived of certain federal benefits and certain rights, such as the right to vote, to hold public office, to serve on a jury, or to possess firearms.

The defendant understands that, if he is not a citizen of the United States, his guilty plea to the charged offense will likely result in him being subject to immigration proceedings and removed from the United States by making him deportable, excludable, or inadmissible. The defendant also understands that if he is a naturalized citizen, his guilty plea may result in ending his naturalization, which would likely subject him to immigration proceedings and possible removal from the United States. The defendant understands that the immigration consequences of this plea will be imposed in a separate proceeding before the immigration authorities. The defendant wants and agrees to plead guilty to the charged offense regardless of any immigration

consequences of this plea, even if this plea will cause his removal from the United States. The defendant understands that he is bound by his guilty plea regardless of any immigration consequences of the plea. Accordingly, the defendant waives any and all challenges to his guilty plea and to his sentence based on any immigration consequences and agrees not to seek to withdraw his guilty plea, or to file a direct appeal or any kind of collateral attack challenging his guilty plea, conviction, or sentence, based on any immigration consequences of his guilty plea.

12. Satisfaction of Federal Criminal Liability; Breach.

The defendant's guilty plea, if accepted by the Court, will satisfy his federal criminal liability in the District of New Hampshire arising from his participation in the conduct that forms the basis of the indictment in this case.

The defendant understands and agrees that, if after entering this Agreement, he fails specifically to perform or fulfill completely each one of his obligations under this Agreement, fails to appear for sentencing, or engages in any criminal activity prior to sentencing, he will have breached this Agreement.

If the United States, in its sole discretion, and acting in good faith, determines that the defendant committed or attempted to commit any further crimes, failed to appear for sentencing, or has otherwise violated any provision of this Agreement, the United States will be released from its obligations under this Agreement, including, but not limited to, any agreement it made to dismiss charges, forbear prosecution of other crimes, or recommend a specific sentence or a sentence within a specified range. The defendant also understands that he may not use his breach of this Agreement as a reason to withdraw his guilty plea or as a basis to be released from his guilty plea.

13. Waivers.

A. Appeal.

The defendant understands that he has the right to challenge his guilty plea and/or sentence on direct appeal. By entering into this Plea Agreement the defendant knowingly and voluntarily waives his right to challenge on direct appeal:

1. His guilty plea and any other aspect of his conviction, including, but not limited to, adverse rulings on pretrial suppression motion(s) or any other adverse disposition of pretrial motions or issues; or claims challenging the constitutionality of the statute of conviction; and
2. The sentence imposed by the Court if it is consistent with or lower than the stipulated sentence or the stipulated sentencing range specified in Section 6 of this agreement.

The defendant's waiver of his rights does not operate to waive an appeal based upon new legal principles enunciated in Supreme Court or First Circuit case law after the date of this Plea Agreement that have retroactive effect; or on the ground of ineffective assistance of counsel.

B. Collateral Review.

The defendant understands that he may have the right to challenge his guilty plea and/or sentence on collateral review, e.g., a motion pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 2241 or 2255. By entering into this Plea Agreement, the defendant knowingly and voluntarily waives his right to collaterally challenge:

1. His guilty plea, except as provided below, and any other aspect of his conviction, including, but not limited to, adverse rulings on pretrial suppression motion(s) or any other adverse disposition of pretrial motions or issues, or claims challenging the constitutionality of the statute of conviction; and
2. The sentence imposed by the Court if it is consistent with or lower than the stipulated sentence or the stipulated sentencing range specified in Section 6 of this agreement.

The defendant's waiver of his right to collateral review does not operate to waive a collateral challenge to his guilty plea on the ground that it was involuntary or unknowing, or on the ground of ineffective assistance of counsel. The defendant's waiver of his right to collateral review also does not operate to waive a collateral challenge based on new legal principles enunciated by in Supreme Court or First Circuit case law decided after the date of this Plea Agreement that have retroactive effect.

**C. Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts.**

The defendant hereby waives all rights, whether asserted directly or through a representative, to request or receive from any department or agency of the United States any records pertaining to the investigation or prosecution of the case(s) underlying this Plea Agreement, including without limitation any records that may be sought under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. §552, or the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. §522a.

**D. Appeal by the Government.**

Nothing in this Plea Agreement shall operate to waive the rights or obligations of the Government pursuant 18 U.S.C. § 3742(b) to pursue an appeal as authorized by law.

**14. No Other Promises.**

The defendant acknowledges that no other promises, agreements, or conditions have been entered into other than those set forth in this Plea Agreement or revealed to the Court, and none will be entered into unless set forth in writing, signed by all parties, and submitted to the Court.

**15. Final Binding Agreement.**

None of the terms of this Plea Agreement shall be binding on the United States until this Plea Agreement is signed by the defendant and the defendant's attorney and until it is signed by

the United States Attorney for the District of New Hampshire, or an Assistant United States Attorney.

16. Agreement Provisions Not Severable.

The United States and the defendant understand and agree that if any provision of this Plea Agreement is deemed invalid or unenforceable, then the entire Plea Agreement is null and void and no part of it may be enforced.

~~JANE E. YOUNG~~  
~~United States Attorney~~

*John S. McCormick*  
*Acting United States Attorney*


Date: 1/31/25

By: 

Heather A. Cherniske  
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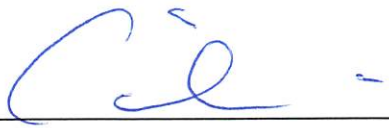
The defendant, Alton Ryan, certifies that he has read this 14-page Plea Agreement and that he fully understands and accepts its terms.

Date: 1/28/25

  
Alton Ryan, Defendant

I have read and explained this 14-page Plea Agreement to the defendant, and he has advised me that he understands and accepts its terms.

Date: 1/28/25

  
David Rothstein, Esquire  
Attorney for Alton Ryan

